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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST
OFFICE OF THE THEATER SURGEON

APO 501
31 May 1945

CIRCULAR LETTER NO: 16

DISPOSITION OF PATIENTS

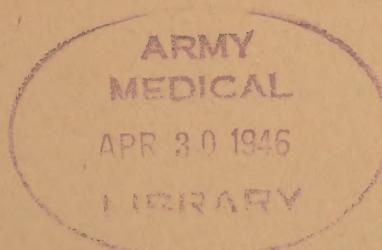
1. There have been cases which indicate that medical disposition boards and individual medical officers are recommending patients with minimal physical defects for evacuation to the United States. Such cases imply that evacuation is being used instead of established disciplinary procedures or on account of personal friendships. This condition reflects upon the integrity of the medical profession as well as the medical service of the theater and must be corrected immediately.

2. The Medical Department has no responsibility for expediting or correcting by means of evacuation what may be believed to be defects in rotation or readjustment procedures. Existing instructions authorize evacuation only of those individuals who are clearly eligible by reason of their medical conditions.

3. Cases of migraine, low back pain and indefinite allergic states with no record of previous hospitalization in this theater, have been recommended for evacuation after only one or two days of hospitalization. As it is a primary function of the Medical Department to maintain effectiveness, instances such as those cited would appear to indicate laxity in the performance of this important function.

4. Commanding officers of hospitals are responsible for the actions of their disposition boards. They must carefully review the actions of these boards and institute appropriate action in cases of failure of the boards properly to discharge their duties.

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